

Serial No. 10/066,533

Docket No. UVD 0276 PA/40815.372

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were pending. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 22, 24-26, 34, 35, 39, 40, 42, and 43 have been amended, and claims 1 and 13 were canceled. As a result of this amendment, claims 2-12, and 14-44 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested in light of the accompanying amendments and remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as being non-enabling, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite has been overcome. Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 22, 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35 have been amended to remove the reference to a "low toxicity" precipitating reagent. Claim 1 has been amended to list specific precipitating reagents. Therefore, the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. These amendments have been made for reasons of clarity and for no other purpose.

The rejection of claims 13-17, 40, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over RU 2006484 has been overcome. RU 2006484 describes adding a mixture of iron (II) sulfate, aluminum sulfate, sodium bicarbonate, starch, and clay to an effluent containing hexavalent chromium. However, iron (II) sulfate and aluminum sulfate are not precipitating reagents, as now recited in claim 13. Therefore, claims 13-17, 40, and 43 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The rejection of claims 13-17, 40, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson has been overcome. Peterson describes treating a solution containing hexavalent chromium with a soluble salt of divalent barium, lead, zinc, cobalt, and copper. Barium and lead are toxic, as described in the specification at p. 7, lines 10-13. Zinc, cobalt, and copper are not precipitating reagents, as now recited in claim 13. Claim 13 recites that the soluble precipitating reagent is selected from bismuth compounds; lanthanide compounds; titanium compounds; trivalent chromium compounds; organic compounds containing a group selected from nitronium, phosphonium, sulfonium, stibonium, iodonium, pyrylium, or combinations thereof; or combinations thereof. Therefore, claims 13-17, 40, and 43 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-12, and 14-44 be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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